

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 9, 15 and 16 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The applicant's appeal brief filed on October 3rd, 2011 has obviated the previous 103(a) rejection of claims 8, 9, 15 and 16 as unpatentable over Diz et al. (US 6,544,361 B1) as stated in the Office action dated February 1st, 2011. Diz et al. ('361 B1) does not teach the final hot rolling temperature between 900 and 1030°C; the Kearns factor FT of between 0.30 and 0.70; and only the process steps limited by the close-ended transitional phrase of "consisting of" as claimed in the instant claims 8 and 15.

A further search for the references on record did not find any prior art which anticipates or renders obvious the claimed subject matter of the instant application alone or in combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Weiping Zhu whose telephone number is 571-272-6725. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-16:30 Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on 571-272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Weiping Zhu/
Examiner, Art Unit 1734

/Emily M Le/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1734
11/25/2011